



# San Juan National Forest Newsletter

Summer 2014



## Hello, SJNF Employees, Retirees and Partners

The almost three months I've been on the Forest have flown by, and I'd like to update you all on some of my thoughts and activities over that time.

I've had the pleasure of attending district seasonal orientations - there's always a barbecue involved! While the food was wonderful, the highlight was talking with seasonal employees and other folks. I also had the pleasure of meeting many of our retirees at the Public Land Center's annual *Cheeseburgers in Paradise* event.

In addition, I've had the opportunity to meet with many of our partners, who are critical in helping us achieve our mission. I attended the *Connecting for Conservation* Partnership Conference in May, a great success in bringing partners together to learn from each other, discuss challenges and identify paths forward.

The Forest hosted a number of Regional Office visits in May from Fire, Recreation and Acquisitions Management staff. These visits give us the opportunity to help the RO better understand the diversity and complexity of our programs, the services we provide to the public, and the challenges we face. A big *thank you* to all San Juan employees who helped with these visits, while continuing to accomplish ongoing work.

The Forest Leadership Team has been taking another hard look at our staffing strategy in light of new information, including the declining recreation budget. We continue to work through this as we take into account succession planning and skill retention, while seeking advice from Human Resources. We are making slow but steady progress and will ensure that all employees are informed of decisions as soon as we make them.

I'll close on my message to employees at the seasonal orientations: Be safe, treat each other with respect, and have fun. And, I hope to see many of you out there in the field this summer!

- Kara Chadwick, San Juan NF Supervisor

## Wilderness Turns 50

**DURANGO** - The San Juan NF is busy planning Wilderness Act 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and invites USFS and BLM staff and retiree participation in the "Walk for Wilderness" on September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-1pm at the La Plata County Fairgrounds in Durango.

The walk will take place along the Animas River Trail to Rotary Park, and the fairgrounds will host live music by the San Juan String Band, a kids' booth, live "branding" of Wilderness 50<sup>th</sup> logo on wood discs for walk participants, stock packing and primitive tool demonstrations, food and beverages, commemorative items, etc. Agency leaders from the USFS, BLM, and NPS will be on hand.

If you can help us with parking, staffing booths, guiding the walk, logistical support, set up/take down, cleanup, etc., please contact me or Kathe Hayes, SJMA Volunteer Coordinator. Be sure to check with your supervisor prior to committing.

Over the summer, we'll keep you posted as things come together. By August, we'll assign specific event duties to individuals or teams of staffers.

We appreciate any support for what will be a great culmination of our local Wilderness 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

- Brian White



## SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



### Julie Shares in BLM Award

**DURANGO** - Earlier this year, *History Colorado* honored BLM Colorado with its 12th Annual Governor's Award for Historic Presentation for the Colorado Wickiup Project. San Juan NF Archaeologist Julie Coleman, who previously worked for the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, was included in the award for her work identifying, surveying and documenting wickiup sites near Montrose from 2000 to 2005.

The project was a partnership between the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group, USFS, National Park Service and Ute Mountain Ute, Southern Ute and Uintah and Ouray Ute tribes.

Wickiups and other aboriginal wooden features, such as tree platforms and brush fences, were once commonplace in Colorado. Now rare, a majority of the surviving features can be associated with Ute culture and represent the only surviving architecture of the state's living indigenous peoples. According to *History Colorado*, the project "is an outstanding example of research that combines archaeology, ethnography, history, and technological innovation." -*Courtesy BLM Colorado*



### Shannon is Ready to Roll

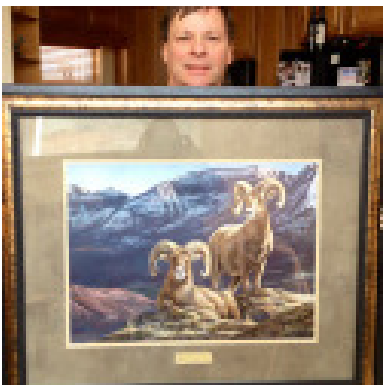
**DURANGO** - Although the joint San Juan/BLM Plan is complete, Plan Revision Team Leader Shannon Manfredi is still at the PLC tying up loose ends. She expects to soon be pursuing environmental analysis work with consulting firms or NEPA jobs with governmental agencies in the region.

Shannon's San Juan NF career dates back to 1993-1994 when she was a seasonal trail construction crew member and campground compliance checker on the old Animas RD. Shannon went on to facilitate the original community study groups during scoping for the plan from 1996 to 1998, as Community Development Associate for the FLC Office of Community Services. In 2004, she was hired under contract as Plan Revision Team Leader.

"I am one of perhaps five people who worked on this plan from start to finish," she says. "In being with the plan from the beginning, I was able to provide continuity and know that it includes the values and ideas we heard from the public over more than a decade."

Shannon's resume includes being one of the founders of the Southwest Conservation Corps, serving on both its board and as its Executive Director. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Humanities from Fort Lewis College and a Master's degree in Political Science, with emphasis in Public Administration and Policy Development, from the University of Colorado-Denver.

Shannon enjoys skiing, hiking, floating rivers, gardening, cooking, hosting friendly get-togethers with her partner, Andre, and cuddling with her beloved furry friends, Ginger and Frank. Stay in touch, girl! - *Ann Bond*



### Mark Honored in Retirement

**DURANGO** - Retired San Juan NF Wildlife Biologist Mark Ball was one of several Region 2 employees to receive special recognition this spring at a regional Wildlife, Botany and Ecology Workshop in Loveland.

Mark was honored in the category of "Career Achievement for Wildlife Stewardship."

He was presented with a framed painting of bighorn sheep and a letter describing the accomplishments over his career.

- *Ann Bond*

# SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



## Jerran is Assistant FMO

**DURANGO** - Jerran Flinders is the new San Juan NF Assistant Fire Management Officer and Unit Aviation Manager stationed at the Air Tanker Base at La Plata Field.

Jerran started his federal career in 1993 on the Uinta NF as Trail Crew Supervisor in Spanish Fork, Utah.

In 1997, he moved to Pleasant Grove, Utah, as Assistant Engine Captain and Initial Attack Squad Leader. In 1999, he became the Flame-in-go Fire Crew Superintendent in Draper, Utah.

In 2003, Jerran moved to Salt Lake City as Bonneville Assistant Superintendent. From 2004 to 2014, he most recently served on the Great Basin BLM Smokejumpers as a spotter and jumper stationed in Boise, Idaho.

Jerran studied Natural Resource Recreation management at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. He enjoys horseback riding, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

"I am excited about my new position and look forward to getting to know all of the Forest personnel," he says. "I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity and am already impressed at the caliber of folks."

- Ann Bond



## Congratulations Team San Juan Riders,

We did it, not just bicycling to work for the National *Bike to Work Challenge* (the fun part), but logging our miles to take part in something bigger—bunches of people documenting their bike commutes around the country—yay! We lowered carbon emissions by 339 pounds.

- Christy Garrou

## Federal Commute Challenge 2014 San Juan Riders Awards

Bred Dodd takes the **MOST MILES LOGGED** with 144 miles, not to mention getting here early!



Brandon Calley gets the **MOST TRIPS MADE** with 20 trips, and holding down the fort way over there in Pagosa!

And, MK Thompson **KEPT US IN THE RANKS** with 85 miles and 14 trips!



Thanks everybody for taking the time to participate!

## SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST NEWSLETTER

is published by the  
San Juan National Forest Public Affairs Office,  
15 Burnett Court, Durango

Read this and past issues online at:  
[www.fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan/about-forest](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan/about-forest)

Please submit story ideas to: [abond@fs.fed.us](mailto:abond@fs.fed.us)



San Juan Public Lands Center Durango



## COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT



### Jessey Makes GIS Cool

**BAYFIELD** - Jessey Ramirez, Columbine RD Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Specialist, recently helped bring college students studying GIS in upstate New York closer to actual field work in the Rocky Mountain West. Maura Sullivan, an Instructor of Environmental Conservation at Finger Lakes Community College, invited Jessey to make a virtual GIS presentation to her students.

"GIS is hard for students to learn in a vacuum," Maura says. "For students who sign up for a career in conservation because they love being outside, sitting in front of a computer is challenging. There is great value in connecting them with working professionals like Jessey."

Jessey explained how she uses her skills to help USFS biologists make field techniques more efficient; for example, helping Columbine Wildlife Biologist Skip Fischer determine the most ideal areas to perform Abert's squirrel surveys.

"The students really enjoyed learning about this indicator species and how GIS can be used to guide wildlife surveys and land management strategies," Maura says.

"My hope is that Jessey's presentations helped them realize the value of GIS skills in today's workforce and the different career paths that open with GIS skills in their tool bag," Maura says. "They really appreciated her perspective and found it one of the more valuable experiences, much more so than the tutorials I have them do."

"It was fun to be in a teaching role as opposed to a service role, like I usually provide," Jessey says. "I learned a lot. It was interesting to talk to the students about how they were using GIS applications to study crime, wildlife, avalanches, and all kinds of things."

- Ann Bond



### Mr. D Goes to Washington

**BAYFIELD** - Scott Dehnisch, Columbine Assistant Initial Attack Handcrew Foreman, has headed to Washington D.C to work with the Disaster Assistance Support International Programs in the USFS Washington Office.

Scott has spent the last five summers on the Columbine RD and the last five winters working collateral duties in the WO Disaster Assistance Support Program. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Environmental Science, with a focus on aquifer hydrology, from Baylor University.

Scott began his USFS career in 2002 as a seasonal on the Bitterroot NF Sula RD Initial Attack Handcrew and has worked on five other ranger districts, including the Columbine, during his career.

- Stan Sparks



Columbine Ranger District Office  
Bayfield, Colorado



Columbine Seasonal Orientation 2014  
Vallecito Work Center

## PAGOSA RANGER DISTRICT



### Jodi Helping with Fire Prevention

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Jodi Mallozzi is the new Pagosa RD Fire Prevention Technician handling patrols and fire suppression, as well as public information and education on fire prevention.

Jodi began her federal career in 2008 on the Coconino NF Mogollon Rim RD in Happy Jack, Arizona, as a member of a fuels crew and later moved on to work three years on a Type 6 Engine.

In 2012, She began her permanent USFS career as Fire Prevention Technician on the Sawtooth NF Minidoka RD in Burley, Idaho.

Jodi holds a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff. Husband, Mike, will be working on a Type 2 helicopter in Idaho this season. In the meantime, furry companion Lucy will be keeping Jodi company. The family enjoys hiking, climbing, camping and traveling.

"I couldn't be more excited to have the opportunity to work in such a beautiful area with amazing people. I look forward to having a fun and challenging summer," Jodi says.

- Ann Bond



### Sue is Ready to Retire

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Sue Yager, Pagosa RD Range Technician/Weed Coordinator, will retire at the end of June. Sue started her USFS career as a volunteer on the San Juan NF's former Animas RD in 1982. The following year, she landed a seasonal Recreation Technician position.

In 1985, Sue began working in the district's range program and was hired as a permanent Range Technician in 1989. In 1998, she went to work in the Durango Interagency Dispatch Center. In 2003, she moved to the Pagosa RD to work in its range program.

Sue holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts - Music from Fort Lewis College. She has family in Grand Lake, Colorado, and enjoys reading, interior design, hiking and exploring.

"I enjoyed helping build relationships between the districts and range permittees," She says of her career, "and helping create the interagency dispatch center and of working with the tribes and Mesa Verde for the fire organization." Sue also contributed to the Region Two Type 1 Incident Management Team, and participated in the Upper San Juan Weed Board in Archuleta County.

- Ann Bond



Pagosa Ranger District, Pagosa Springs





## PAGOSA RANGER DISTRICT

### Beware the Impact Monster

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Have you ever heard of the Impact Monster? This monster can be found lurking in campgrounds, wilderness areas, along trails, and even in the cafeteria of Pagosa Elementary School.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day, elementary students and teachers were introduced to the Impact Monster by San Juan NF staff in celebration of the Wilderness 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passing of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

We covered information on the National Forest, its Wilderness areas, and the “kid friendly” version of Leave No Trace principals.

The debut of the Impact Monster proved most popular, with an interactive skit that involved 125 eager fourth graders.



*Photo by Brandy Richardson*

*“The Impact Monster left quite a mess in the wilderness area we invented in the cafeteria.”*

The Impact Monster left quite a mess in the wilderness area we invented in the cafeteria. He hiked in with a radio blaring music and left trash all over, fed potato chips to the squirrels, picked the wildflowers, attacked a snake with a stick, camped too close to the lake, and ventured off trail to see some pottery pieces (not to mention added a few to his collection). He tried to hit some frogs with rocks, and the list goes on and on. Afterwards, we had a great discussion about each of Leave No Trace principals and how the Impact Monster violated them.

The presentation was excellent, and I received some insightful and fantastic comments from teachers, co-workers and especially the kids.

Although I haven’t been on the San Juan for very long, I now have quite the reputation in the local elementary school. I will forever be known as the Impact Monster.

*- Brandon Caley*

## DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



### Joey is New Range Con

**DOLORES** - Joey Pruitt is the new Dolores RD Range Conservationist handling grazing allotments, permits and improvements, rangeland health and noxious and invasive weed inventories.

Joey worked as a wildland firefighter on the Santa Fe and Carson NFs from 2002 to 2011 on a Type 6 and Type 3 engine, and on a district hand crew. On the Jicarilla RD, he also helped with rangeland monitoring and inventory, and worked with the district’s Wild Horse and Burro Program.

In 2012, Joey became Range Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Joey holds a Bachelor’s degree in Range Science from New Mexico State University. He enjoys hunting, fishing and playing golf, and used to team rope and hopes to get back into that again someday.

“I am enjoying my new position and learning a lot,” Joey says. “I look forward to the opportunities to continue to learn and develop as a sound and proficient Range Con.”

*- Ann Bond*

## DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



### Bryce Covering Developed Rec

**DOLORES** - Bryce Paul has moved from Dolores RD travel management to operations and maintenance of the District's developed recreation program, which includes McPhee Reservoir, 12 campgrounds and many day-use sites, boat ramps, dispersed recreation sites and other facilities.

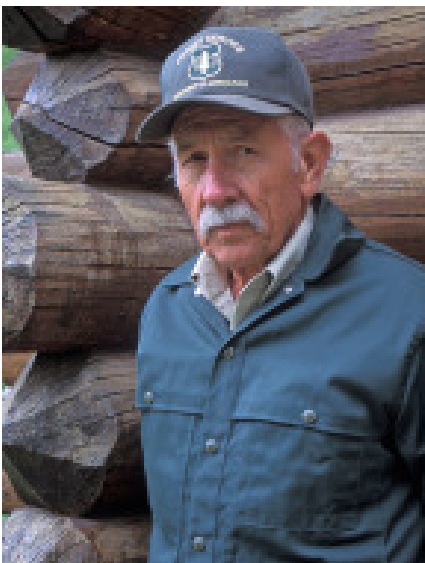
Bryce started his federal career in 2002 as a seasonal BLM firefighter in Dolores. In 2008, he became Assistant Engine Captain for the San Juan NF. In 2011, he moved to Region 3 as Engine Captain on the Gila NF.

Between fire seasons 2003 to 2005, Bryce worked for C.E. Powers Construction. Between fire seasons 2006 to 2008, he worked for Jacobs Field Services North America, and for the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations.

Bryce holds a Structural Firefighter One Certificate from San Juan Basin Technical School and graduated from Heavy Equipment Operators School in Eugene, Oregon.

He and wife, Jen, have a son, Matthew 13; and three girls; Grace, 9, Bryley, 5, and Amelia, 9 months. They enjoy camping, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding.

"I look forward to working to maintain and improve our world-class recreation areas," Bryce says. - Ann Bond



*Photo Courtesy Dr. Andrew Gulliford*

### Honoring Lloyd

**DOLORES** - The Dolores RD is working to dedicate and name a new bridge connecting the Geyser Springs Trail over the West Dolores River after former Trail Crew Foreman Lloyd McNeil, who passed away this spring.

Lloyd was the key person in reconstructing the Geyser Springs Trail, which was steep and hard to find before he and his crew rerouted it. His goal was to improve and interpret the trail so people could see the only true geyser in Colorado.

Lloyd's concern for public safety led to relocation of the trail's parking lot years ago. The old trailhead was on a dangerous corner with little space and no right-of-way. The river crossing was also a problem; stepping stones were only a temporary fix. The new bridge being constructed this summer will solve both a safety and trespass issue, because people would use the adjacent private land owner's bridge when the river was high.

Because of Lloyd's level of involvement on the Geyser Trail, it was affectionately known on the district as the "Geezer Trail." Lloyd, whose FS career spanned three decades, was in his 70s when he reluctantly retired.

Lloyd will be remembered as one of the last of his breed. He was always a hands-on FS employee; the kind of guy who could not drive past a piece of trash without stopping to pick it up.

Lloyd treated the forest like he would his own property; with love, dedication and care. He also was able to build sustaining relationships with many local area volunteer groups. Our hope is that many people will smile and remember Lloyd as they cross the bridge and enjoy the trail that Lloyd built.

- Toni Kelly

*A memorial service for Lloyd will be held by his family on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. All of his USFS friends are invited. Time, place and other details to be announced.*



*Dolores Public Lands Office, Dolores*